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## HOW TO CLEAN OUT A SINK TRAP

It is advisable to clean out sink or laundry tub waste traps from time to time. Dirt collects in the bottom of them and grease adheres to the sides of the pipes. It is not hard to unscrew the cleanout plug and wash out any obstructing matter or pull it out with a wire bent to form a hook, says the United States Department of Agriculture. Grease, hair, or lint, can often be scraped out with a stick when the trap has been opened. Coffee grounds are among the commonest sources of stoppage at the trap. Melted wax used for sealing jelly glasses finds its way into the trap, and when hardened is another frequent cause of trouble. Small obstructions are often forced down or drawn up by the use of a simple rubber force cup, sometimes called "the plumber's friend", costing 30 to 60 cents. The cup is placed over the fixture outlet and the fixture is partially filled with water. The wood handle of the cup is then worked rapidly down and up, causing alternate expulsion of the water from beneath the cup and suction upward through the waste pipe and trap. Chemical solvents are sometimes needed to free the pipes. Caustic soda or potash are sometimes used. Directions for their preparation and use may be found in Farmers' Bulletin 1426-F, Farm Plumbing.

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